

Abstract (Basic): WO 9602273 A

A novel human monoclonal antibody (MAb) is capable of immunoreacting with human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) glycoprotein gp120 and neutralising HIV, and has the capacity to reduce HIV infectivity titre in an in vitro virus infectivity assay by 50% at a

concentration of less than 700 ng of antibody /ml, where the MAb binds mature gp120 preferentially over HIV precursor gp160. Also claimed are: (1) a polynucleotide sequence (I) encoding a heavy chain immunoglobulin variable region (VH) amino acid sequence of the above MAb, where the MAb has the binding specificity of a MAb comprising a VH having the 124 amino acid sequence given in the specification; (2) a host cell comprising (I); and (3) a DNA expression vector comprising (I).

USE - The MAb may be used in a method for determining immunocompetence of a human anti-HIV antibody and in the detection of HIV infection (claimed). The MAb may also be used to provide passive immunotherapy to HIV (claimed). Kits for the detection of HIV are considered within the scope of the invention.

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